National Council on AIDS

547. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a National Council on AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of HIV/AIDS have risen to 5.1 million at the end of last year from just one case in 1986; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that India today stood next only to South Africa which is estimated to have 5.4 million cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to set up a National Council on AIDS under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to mainstream HIV/AIDS issues in all Ministries and departments by considering it as a development challenge and not merely public health problem.

(c) Yes, Sir. The number of HIV positive estimated in the country is 5.1 million in 2003. The first positive case was identified in 1986.

(d) In terms of total number of HIV estimated positive persons, India is next only to South Africa which had an estimated 5.4 million HIV positive cases. But in terms of HIV prevalence in general population India has adult prevalence of 0.9 per cent by 2003 and South Africa has 26.9 per cent.

De-recognition of medical and dental colleges in Karnataka

548. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of medical and dental colleges in Karnataka recommended by Medical Council of India for de-recognition;